AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1.   (currently amended) A method of analyzing the ownership costs of a complex physical system having involving a plurality of cost-incurring operations associated with components of the system, the method comprising:

using a plurality of nodes of a tree structure to represent a plurality of operations associated with the system;

using a first and a second node of [[a]] the tree structure to represent a first and a second operation associated with the system;

using a branch of the tree structure to represent a first dependency between the first operation and of the second operation on the first operation; [[and]]

determining whether a third node used to represent an operation represents the first operation; and

based on the determining, modifying a cost associated with the second operation.

2.   (original) The method according to Claim 1, further comprising associating a cost with the first node, the cost to be further associated with the first operation.

3. (original) The method according to Claim 2, further comprising, determining a total cost associated with the first and the second operations including the cost associated with the first operation.

4. (original) The method according to Claim 1, further comprising modifying the first node to represent a change of the first operation.

5. (original) The method according to Claim 4, further comprising disabling modifications to the second node.

6. (original) The method according to Claim 5, further comprising undoing the modification to the first node and enabling a subsequent modification.

7. (original) The method according to Claim 6, further comprising subsequently modifying the second node to reflect a change of the second operation.

8. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 4, the modifying the first node further comprising modifying the first dependency.

9. (original) The method according to Claim 1 further comprising determining whether a second branch branches from the first node, the first branch branching from the first node.

10.   (currently amended) A method of analyzing the ownership costs of a complex physical system having involving a plurality of cost-incurring operations associated with components of the system, the method comprising:

using a plurality of nodes of a tree structure to represent a plurality of operations associated with the system;

using a first and a second node of [[a]] the tree structure to represent a first and a second operation associated with the system;

using a first branch of the tree structure to represent a first-dependency between the first operation and of the second operation on the first operation; [[and]]

determining whether a second branch branches from the first operation, the first branch branching from the first node between the first node and a third node represents a dependency of the first operation on a third operation represented by the third node; and

based on the determining, modifying one or more costs associated with at least one of the second and third operations.

11.   (currently amended) The method according to Claim 10, further comprising determining whether a third fourth node used to represent an operation represents the first operation.

12.   (currently amended) A computer-readable medium comprising instructions executable to cause a data processing apparatus to establish a cost model for a

complex ~~physical~~ system ~~to have~~ involving a plurality of cost-incurring operations associated with the system, the model comprising:

a tree structure in which a plurality of nodes are used to represent a plurality of operations associated with the system;

a first node representing a first operation associated with the system;

a second node representing a second operation associated with the system; and

a branch ~~branching from~~ between the first node and the second node representing a ~~first~~ dependency ~~between the first and the second operations~~ of the second operation on the first operation; ~~and~~

~~a function determining~~ the model further configured to determine whether a third node used to represent an operation represents the first operation, and based on the determination, to modify a cost associated with the second operation.

13.   (currently amended) The ~~model~~ computer-readable medium according to Claim 12, further comprising a cost associated with the first node, the cost to be further associated with the first operation.

14.   (currently amended) The ~~model~~ computer-readable medium according to Claim 13 further comprising, a total cost associated with the first and the second operations including the cost associated with the first operation.

15. (currently amended) The ~~model~~ computer-readable medium according to Claim 12, wherein the first node may be modified to represent a change of the first operation.

16. (currently amended) The ~~model~~ computer-readable medium according to Claim 15, further comprising a function to disable modifications to the second node if a modification has been made to the first node.

17. (currently amended) The ~~model~~ computer-readable medium according to Claim 16, further comprising a function to undo the modification to the first node and to enable a subsequent modification.

18. (currently amended) The ~~model~~ computer-readable medium according to Claim 17, wherein the second node may be modified to represent a change in the second operation.

19. (currently amended) The ~~model~~ computer-readable medium according to Claim 15, the changing the first node further comprising modifying the first dependency.

20. (currently amended) The ~~model~~ computer-readable medium according to Claim 12 further comprising a function to determine whether a second branch branches from the first node, the first branch branching from the first node.

21.   (currently amended) A <u>computer-readable medium comprising instructions</u> <u>executable to cause a data processing apparatus to establish a</u> cost model for a complex <u>physical</u> system ~~to have~~ <u>involving</u> a plurality of <u>cost-incurring</u> operations associated with the system, the model comprising:

a tree structure <u>in which a plurality of nodes are used to represent a plurality of</u> <u>operations associated with the system</u>;

a first node representing a first operation associated with the system;

a second node representing a second operation associated with the system; <u>and</u>

a <u>first</u> branch ~~branching from~~ <u>between</u> the first node <u>and the second node</u> representing a ~~first~~ dependency ~~between the first and the second operations~~ <u>of the</u> <u>second operation on the first operation</u>; ~~and~~

~~a function to determine whether a second branch branches from the first node~~ <u>the model further configured to determine whether a second branch between the first</u> <u>and third nodes represents a dependency of the first operation on a third operation</u> <u>represented by the third node, and based on the determination, to modify one or more</u> <u>costs associated with at least one of the second and third operations</u>.

22.   (currently amended) The ~~model~~ <u>computer-readable medium</u> according to Claim 21, ~~further comprising a function~~ <u>wherein the model is further configured</u> to determine whether a ~~third~~ <u>fourth</u> node represents the first operation.

23.   (currently amended) A computer for modeling costs associated with a complex physical system having a plurality of cost-incurring operations associated with the system, the computer comprising:

a memory to store a tree structure in which each of a plurality of nodes is used to represent an operation associated with the system, the tree structure including:

a first node representing a first operation associated with the system;

a second node representing a second operation associated with the system; and

a branch between the first node and the second node representing a first dependency between the first and the second operations of the second operation on the first operation;

a processor to determining configured to determine whether a third node used to represent an operation represents the first operation and based on the determining, reduce a cost associated with the second node; and

an output to output a result of the determination a graphical user interface configured to display the reduced cost.

24.   (original) The computer according to Claim 23, wherein the processor to further determine whether a second branch branches from the first node, the first branch branching from the first node.

25. (currently amended) A computer for modeling costs associated with a complex ~~physical~~ system having a plurality of ~~cost-incurring~~ operations associated with the system, the computer comprising:

a memory to store a tree structure in which each of a plurality of nodes is used to represent an operation associated with the system, the tree structure including:

a first node representing a first operation associated with the system;

a second node representing a second operation associated with the system; and

a first branch ~~branching from~~ between the first node and the second node representing a ~~first~~ dependency ~~between the first and the second operations~~ of the second operation on the first operation;

a processor ~~to determining~~ configured to determine whether a second branch ~~branches from the first node~~ between the first node and a third node represents a dependency of the first operation on a third operation represented by the third node, and based on the determining, reduce one or more costs associated with the second and third nodes; and

~~an output to output a result of the determination~~ a graphical user interface configured to display the reduced costs.

26. (currently amended) The computer according to Claim 25, wherein the processor to further determine whether a ~~third~~ fourth node represents the first operation.